

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1           1. (previously presented) A joint assembly for joining  
2 a filiform element to a connection element, the assembly comprising  
3 a tube fitted on an end section of said filiform element  
4 and formed with an eye for said connection element, the filiform  
5 element consisting of a single composite and solid round strand;  
6 and  
7 means for bonding together the tube and the connection  
8 along continuous side contacting surfaces thereof.

1           2. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1 wherein said tube and said eye are made in a single  
3 piece.

1           3. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 2 wherein said tube and said eye are separate pieces.

1           4. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 3 wherein said tube has a curved section defining said  
3 eye, and at least a first substantially straight section distal  
4 from an outer end of said end section of said filiform element.

5. (canceled)

1           6. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1 wherein said means for bonding said tube to said  
3 filiform element comprises an adhesive or a chemical bond between  
4 said tube and said filiform element.

1           7. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 4 wherein said first straight section of said tube has a  
3 predetermined length such that the tensile stress force is at least  
4 partially transferred from said filiform element to said tube along  
5 said first straight section of said tube.

1           8. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 4 wherein said tube has a second substantially straight  
3 section proximal to the outer end of said end section of said  
4 filiform element.

9. (canceled)

1           10. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1 wherein a matrix of said filiform element of composite  
3 material is thermoplastic.

11. (canceled)

1           12. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1 wherein said tube is steel.

13 - 14. (canceled)

1           15. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1 wherein said filiform element has a protective coating  
3 against ultraviolet rays, against attacks of chemical nature, or  
4 against damage of mechanical origin.

1           16. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1 wherein said filiform element or said protective coating  
3 has a predetermined coloration for identifying the diameter of said  
4 filiform element or for visually indicating said filiform element.

1           17. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1 wherein said filiform element or said protective coating  
3 has length markers for facilitating measurement of said filiform  
4 element during manufacture of the joint assembly.

1           18. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1, further comprising  
3 means for locking the eye closed.

1           19. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 18 wherein said locking means are formed by a ring applied  
3 around the neck of said eye.

1           20. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1 wherein said tube has flared end edges.

1           21. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1, further comprising  
3 removable connection means between said tube and said  
4 eye.

1           22. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 21 wherein said connection means comprise a threaded stem  
3 that extends from said eye and screws into a first end of said  
4 tube.

1           23. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 21, further comprising  
3 a retaining element adapted to prevent the filiform  
4 element from pulling out of a second end of said tube.

1           24. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 23 wherein the retaining element consists of a pin  
3 inserted axially the outer end of said filiform element positioned

4 in said tube, and having a maximum cross section greater than an  
5 internal clearance of said tube.

1 25. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 23 wherein said pin is conical or frustoconical.

1 26. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 23 wherein said filiform element is of composite  
3 thermoplastic material heatable to a softening temperature adapted  
4 to permit the penetration of the retaining element.

1 27. (previously presented) The joint assembly according  
2 to claim 1, further comprising  
3 means for screw connection between the outer side surface  
4 of said end section of said filiform element and the inner side  
5 surface of said tube.

28 - 29. (canceled)

1 30. (previously presented) A procedure for joining a  
2 filiform element to a connection element comprising the steps of  
3 fitting a tube on an end section of said filiform  
4 element,

5           shaping said tube such that it defines an eye adapted to  
6   be hooked by said connection element, the filiform element being a  
7   composite and solid round strand,

8           simultaneously heating the strand with the tube to a  
9   predetermined temperature at which both become malleable in order  
10   to be shaped to define the eye.

31.   (canceled)

1           32.   (previously presented)   The procedure for achieving  
2   a system of junction of a filiform element to a connection element  
3   according to claim 30, further comprising the step of  
4           joining said filiform element to said tube in order to  
5   transfer the tensile stress load from one to the other.

1           33.   (previously presented)   A kit for achieving a system  
2   of junction of a filiform element to a connection element, the kit  
3   comprising  
4           a filiform element, resistant to tensile stress, of  
5   thermoplastic composite and solid material,  
6           a tube fittable on an end section of said filiform  
7   element, and  
8           a device for bending the tube including means for heating  
9   adapted to simultaneously heat said filiform element and said tube  
10   to a predetermined temperature in which said filiform element and

- 11      said tube become malleable, in order to be shaped such to  
12      substantially define a hooking eye to said connection element.

34 - 40.    (canceled)